

Herald and News

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Managing Editor

A temporary combination of the Evening Herald and the Klamath News. Published every afternoon except Sunday at 11:30 a. m. and 12:30 p. m. at the Klamath News Publishing Co. and the Klamath News Publishing Co., 1001 East Main, Klamath Falls, Ore., on August 30, 1906 under act of congress, March 3, 1879.

Member of The Associated Press

MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

Christmas—Rainbow of Hope in A Darkened World

(Editor's Note: It is traditional that the editorial on this page on Christmas eve be written by a local clergyman. Author of today's Christmas editorial is Rev. Victor Phillips, pastor of the First Methodist church of Klamath Falls.)

By REV. VICTOR PHILLIPS

THE world is obsessed with the clash of arms. The Christmas candles burn amidst a world darkness such as history has never before recorded, the singing of the Christmas carols cannot wholly close our ears to such cries of human suffering and need as human ears have seldom if ever heard before. The ruins of the bombed streets of London and Coventry, the piled up dead lying on the streets of Stalingrad, Memories of Pearl Harbor, Bataan, Corregidor, the partially blacked out cities and towns of our own coastline, the anxiety in millions of homes, the sorrow and heartbreak in thousands of them, all these give grim testimony to a devilish force let loose in the world, yet CHRISTMAS IS HERE, with its promise and its hope:

"Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight."

It is well to remember that the Christmas Story is in itself the greatest of all our rainbows of hope. The literary classics of Van Dyke, Dickens, and others are beautiful. The stories in the New Testament, written by Matthew and Luke, entrance us with their beautiful simplicity, but there is something in the Christmas Story that is greater than any one of them or the sum of all of them. That life which seemed to begin at Bethlehem and to end at Calvary is an answer to man's search for God. Toiling up out of the mists of primitive days we see prehistoric man slowly becoming aware of some unseen presence beyond the range of eye to see or ear to hear. He is haunted by a mystic longing and cries out, "Oh, that I knew where I might find him." On the other hand the Eternal Spirit—this father God—is trying to make himself known to his creature child. He speaks "by divers portions and in divers manners" but neither man nor God is content with the results of such communion. Then in one venturesome attempt the eternal word becomes flesh and dwells among men. This is it which gives significance to that birth at Bethlehem and makes it transcend all other births.

Around the life and teachings of Jesus a fellowship was created. Collections were made of the things he said and did. A whole new literature came into being. Men sought to interpret the meaning of his unusual life. They said, "Never man spake like this man." "This man hath borne our griefs," and finally in a great moment of discovery they dared to say "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself." Then it was they realized that at last man had seen God—just as Jesus said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Always they had dreamed someone who had incarnated the spirit of the One they had known existed and had watched for so long. His coming was announced in "The Annunciation." The Wise Men from the East followed the Star. The angels sang the Hallelujah Chorus and the shepherds bowed down and worshipped. So the long quest of man to see God had ended in fulfillment and in that fact we can find our rainbow of hope—sufficient to steady all of us as we face a future where dark storm clouds seem to hang everywhere on the horizon. Always we can remember there is God—the One who has been disclosed in Jesus Christ. As long as we hold our faith in a Christlike God we may dare to go forward. As Herod sought out the young Child that he might kill him, as Pilate sent him to the cross at Calvary in the hope that that would be the end of him, so evil forces are loose in the world today seeking his life, but Christ is "The Word" and The Word is the light that the darkness has never yet overpowered nor ever will. It still shines on. Jesus is not a mere dead Judean religionist. He has "lifted the gates of empires off their hinges and turned the streams of human history from their channels." He was never more pertinent than he is today. He is here and now the most dramatic and consequential figure in the world scene. His mind will judge our peace; His law will make stable our post-war treaties; His will is the ultimate test of our civilization. Before His throne we shall give an account of what we have done for this generation in this our world.

It is time that we began to take him seriously. The true Christian way of life is his way of life. If we are really serious about building a better world we must trust the principle, His principles, which alone can build a good world. Any world that refuses to accept spiritual realities is doomed to join all the wrecks of all the other pagan empires strewn along the shores of time.

We are not true patriots to our nation if we are slackers to the Kingdom of God. "This is your condemnation, that light was come into the world and men loved darkness." That little saying of Louise Haskins, given over the radio by King George VI, ought to help us as we face the future: "I said to a man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.'"

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our friends for their many acts of kindness and lovely floral offerings extended during our bereavement, the loss of our beloved baby daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Cessnun and family.

ATTENTION

The East Side Beauty Shop

will take appointments as late as 7:00 p. m. to accommodate working women.

131 East Main Phone 7117

Telling The Editor

Letters printed here must not be more than 100 words in length, must be written on ONE SIDE of the paper only, and must be signed. Contributions following these rules, are warmly welcomed.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

"Stars! Light the pathway for Peace again!"
I cried from the hovels of misery and pain;
Up from the stench and vermin and mice,
Above bloodstained floors and filth and lice—
But Silence came back to me deeper than death.
Deeper and fuller came Night's chilly breath.

"Moon! Light the world with your gleam on high!"
I moaned from the wrecked, empty streets of Shanghai;
Streets filled with emptiness, death and night;
Streets where no children ran, hateful to sight!
Silence came back to me deeper than death.
Deeper and fuller came Night's chilly breath!

"Heavenly Choir! Sing out thru the fields!"
Out where the watchful soldier kneels,
There near the fox holes in lost Bataan.
Across where sleep the brave in England!"
Silence came back to me deeper than death.
Deeper and fuller came Night's chilly breath!

Across the dark night a Vision appeared
Of men arm in arm—for no one they feared;
Their armour laid down all rusty and bent,
The shepherds, the farmers, the white collar gent—
Their voices made music across every hill,
Of Peace on the Earth to men of Good Will.

by S. L.

OREGON CO READY IF JAPS ATTACK

SALEM, Dec. 24 (P)—Civilian defense organizations in all Oregon counties west of the Cascades are prepared for any emergency that may arise during the Christmas holidays, State Civilian Defense Coordinator Jerrold Owen said today.

Owen said he has just completed a check of communications in each of the counties. Because the Japanese fleet and planes have been missing from the Pacific war theatres for several weeks, some military officials believe that Japan might be preparing an all-out attack on Hawaii or the west coast, possibly during the holidays, Owen said.

Owen stressed, however, that he has not alerted his organization, asserting he does not want to alarm the people.

Uniformity in Redwood Lumber Prices Assured

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24 (P)—To assure uniformity in the delivered prices of all redwood lumber, the office of price administration has authorized the few redwood mills outside northwestern California to figure their freight costs as if Eureka, Calif., were their shipping point. The authorization, effective December 26, applies directly to only three per cent of all redwood production but will have the result of guaranteeing producers in the principal Sonoma-Mendocino-Humboldt-Del Norte redwood area that the cut of the outlying mills will not bring better prices at the market.

Rent it through the classified.

When in Medford
Stay at
HOTEL HOLLAND
Thoroughly Modern
Joe and Anne Earley
Proprietors

SIDE GLANCES



"Oh, sure, I appreciate the doll Aunt Molly sent me—but she doesn't seem to understand this is a machine age for women."

YOU MAY HAVE TO SLICE YOUR OWN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (P)—A plan to force people to slice their own bread took shape today as a prelude to a broad program of holding down the cost of living essentials where necessary by eliminating frills. Officials, who declined to be quoted by name, said the baking industry already has given general assent to a program of producing the manufacturing and service costs of bread as a means of preventing a price increase and still maintaining quality.

Although bread has been regarded historically as "the staff of life," in the present case the proposed changes in baking practices were viewed as fundamental for the additional reason that they may provide a pattern for many other commodities.

OPA recently authorized department stores to discontinue or curtail such services as wrapping, credit, deliveries, and merchandise returns without decreasing prices. This action was a recognition of the necessity of conserving manpower and truck tires.



Merry Christmas

It isn't ice and snow and sleighs that make Christmas, nor the tinsel on the tree, nor the presents, nor the homecomings, nor the turkey and cranberry sauce. It is the Christmas spirit that prevails within our hearts—not only for today, but for days and years to come.

John H. Houston

Shot Fatal to 13-Year-Old

WENDELL, Ida., Dec. 24 (P)—Erwin Brishm, 13-year-old Hagerman school boy and holiday-season trapper, died yesterday of a bullet wound suffered Tuesday when his rifle discharged as he fell.

THEY ASKED FOR IT

HENDRICKS FIELD, Fla., (P)—"All those who do not believe in Santa Claus will sign here," read a bulletin in a squadron orderly room. Later in the day, the squadron commander checked the list and announced: "All those who signed have as-

signed themselves to KP duty on Christmas day."

TRUCKS FOR RENT
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IN APPRECIATION

Thank you, Klamath Falls! We've been swamped here a time or two in the past year . . . sometimes our service wasn't very fast . . . sometimes the parts we ordered for you didn't arrive on time . . . sometimes they just didn't arrive at all. Due to material shortages and man-power shortages our service wasn't quite so good as we would have liked, but you, the motorists of this community, have been very tolerant of our shortcomings, and we here at Specialized deeply appreciate that fact.

No one knows what 1943 may bring, but if you will continue to bear with us, we will do our utmost to keep your cars rolling. Thanks again.

Specialized Service

1434 Main UNITED MOTORS SERVICE Dial 5103

A Merry American



CHRISTMAS

In wishing you a Merry AMERICAN Christmas we wish you also the courage to give everything you have to the fight to keep the blessings of freedom intact—and, above all, we wish for Victory and the speedy return of loved ones.

KLAMATH MACHINE & LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

The Pelican Cafe

Will Be Closed

Christmas Day, Saturday and Sunday

in order to give our employees extra time for Christmas.

We Will Be Open Monday, 8 A. M.

"Merry Christmas"